AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 9 with the following amended paragraph:

In the next place, the obtained calcined body is heated to a temperature equal to or higher than 1500°C under a nitrogen gas atmosphere. The temperature is preferably elevated to 1500 to 2000°C or 1500 to 1950°C. The reason why the upper limit of the heating temperature is set at 2000°C is in that since an amount of nitrogen doped in the nitrogen atmosphere reaches an equilibrium at substantially 2000°C, the heating at a temperature higher than that is uneconomical. Furthermore, when the temperature is set at 2400°C or higher, a furnace is broken. Still furthermore, when the temperature is set outside of the range of 1500 to 2000°C, the mechanical strength is deteriorated. Accordingly, the heating is applied to a constant temperature in the temperature range. At that time, from a viewpoint of improving the mechanical strength, the heating temperature is preferably set in the range of 1700 to 2000°C. After the constant temperature is attained, the temperature condition is maintained under the nitrogen atmosphere for 0.5 to 8 hr. Under the same heating temperature, an amount of nitrogen in the silicon carbide sintered body can be increased by at least either one of (a) prolonging a holding time; or (b) raising pressure (atm). The pressure under the nitrogen gas atmosphere is preferably in the range of ~~0.5~~up to 0.2 kg/m^2. According to the above steps, a silicon carbide sintered body for heaters can be obtained.

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 14 with the following amended paragraph:

(3) First heating step: The obtained green body was put in a graphite crucible having an inner diameter of 200 mm and a height of 80 mm and heated to 600°C under a vacuum atmosphere ~~of pressure of 1 atm~~ over 2 hr, followed by holding at 600°C for 30 min.

Please replace the Note at the bottom of Table 1 with the following amended paragraph:

A green body was heated to a temperature of 600°C over 2 hr under a vacuum atmosphere ~~at pressure of 1 (atm)~~, followed by holding at 600°C for 30 min, further followed by heating under the above condition to obtain a silicon carbide sintered body.

In examples 7 and 8, silicon carbide powder sintered under an argon atmosphere was used.